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Ontario Women's Directorate

NEWS RELEASE

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ONTARIO GOVERNMENT CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY BY HONOURING THE LATE DORIS ANDERSON

Paving The Way Toward Full Gender Equality And An End To Violence Against Women

TORONTO – The McGuinty government is celebrating International Women's Day by honouring the late Doris Anderson and resolving to renew efforts to further gender equality and end violence against women, Minister Responsible for Women's Issues Sandra Pupatello said today.

"Doris Anderson's legacy is a better future for women in Ontario and around the world," said Pupatello. "International Women's Day is an opportunity to honour this legacy as we redouble our efforts to achieve full gender equality and an end to all forms of violence against women."

Doris Anderson championed women's rights throughout her 50-year career as a journalist. She pushed for a Royal Commission on the status of women, worked to reduce the wage gap and to change discriminatory divorce laws. She also campaigned vigorously for proportional representation in the electoral system to encourage more women in politics and lobbied successfully for an equality clause in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Today is the 30th anniversary of the establishment of International Women's Day. The United Nations' theme for 2007 is "Ending Impunity for Violence against Women and Girls".

In December, 2004, the McGuinty government announced the four-year $82 million Domestic Violence Action Plan. The plan is working to prevent violence against women through better community supports, a strengthened justice system response, public education strategies, and increased access to services in French and other languages. The government is also funding training programs to help women rebuild their lives and find careers in information technology and the skilled trades.

"True equality means that women can live free from fear of violence in their own homes, and have economic opportunities," said Minister Pupatello. "Working with community partners, our government's Domestic Violence Action Plan and programs that further women's economic independence are making a difference in women's lives."

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